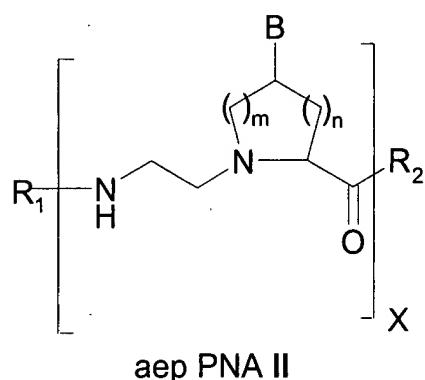


IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing replaces all prior versions of the claims.

1-13. (Canceled)

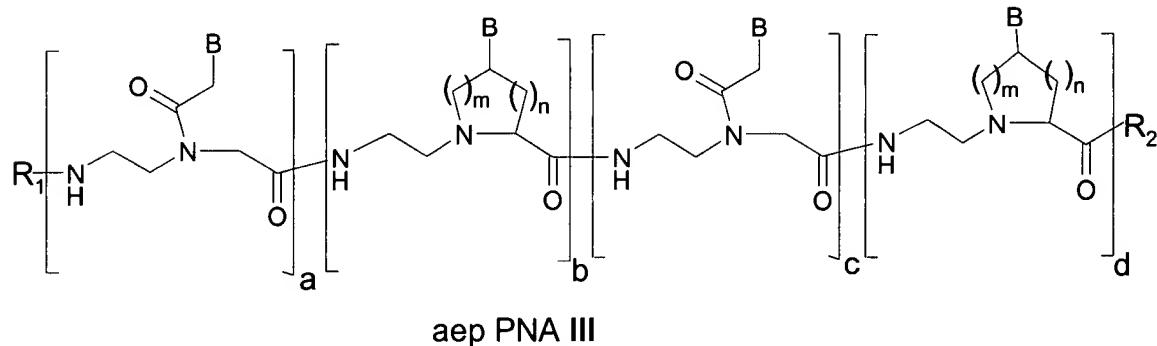
14. (Previously presented) A compound having the formula



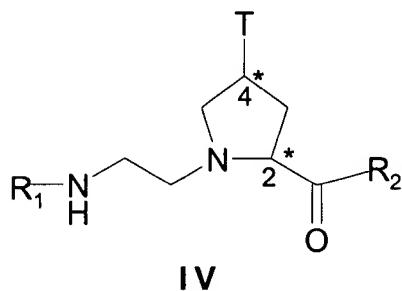
wherein

- m and n are 1 to 2 and x = 1-20;
- each of B is independently selected from the group consisting of H, HO, NH₂, naturally occurring nucleobases adenine (A), thymine (T), cytosine (C) and guanine (G), non-naturally occurring nucleobases, DNA intercalators, heterocyclic moieties and reporter ligands;
- each chiral monomeric unit is independently selected from the four possible diastereomers; and
- R₁=H or Fluorophore or Biotin, R₂=OH or NH(CH₂)₂COOH or NH(CH₂)₃NH(CH₂)₄NH(CH₂)₃NH₂.

15. (Currently amended) A compound having the formula



that is heteropolymeric aepPNA III comprising non-chiral *aeg* unit of aminoethylglycyl PNA I and chiral *aep* monomeric unit IV



wherein

- T is a nucleobase;
- each chiral monomer unit is independently selected from the four possible diastereomers;
- a, b, c, d, m, n are integers with independent values in the range 1 to 10;
- R₁ is H, COCH₃ or L (L = dansyl, carboxyfluoresceinyl);
- R₂ is OH, NH₂, NHCH₂CH₂COOH, or NH(CH₂)₃NH(CH₂)₄ NH(CH₂)₃NH₂; and
- each of B is independently selected from the group consisting of H, HO, NH₂, naturally occurring nucleobases, non-naturally occurring nucleobases, DNA intercalators, heterocyclic moieties and reporter ligands.

16. (Currently amended) The compound as claimed in claim 15, wherein

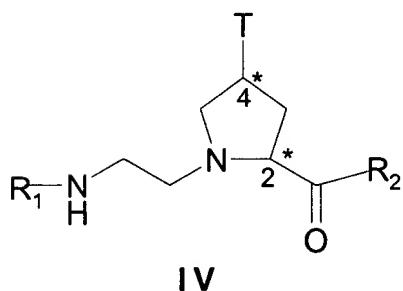
- i) m=n=1, B=T, R₁=H, R₂= NH(CH₂CH₂)COOH, a=7, b=1, c=d=0;
- ii) m=n=1, B=T, R₁=H, R₂= NH(CH₂CH₂)COOH, a=c=3, b=d=1;

- iii) m=n=1, B=T, R₁=H, R₂= NH(CH₂CH₂)COOH, a=b=c=d=1, repeating and wherein chiral monomeric units a, b, c, and d occur twice in that order;
- iv) m=n=1, B=T, R₁=H, R₂= NH(CH₂CH₂)COOH, a=b=c=0, d=8; and
- v) m=n=1, B=T, R₁=H, R₂= NH(CH₂CH₂)COOH, a=d=0, b=1, c=7.

17. (Previously presented) The compound as claimed in claim 15, wherein said compound is synthesized by adaptation of standard solution phase peptide synthesis procedures or standard solid phase peptide synthesis procedures.

18. (Previously presented) The compound as claimed in claim 16, wherein said compound is synthesized by adaptation of standard solution phase peptide synthesis procedures or standard solid phase peptide synthesis procedures.

19. (Previously presented) A monomer precursor-synthon of formula IV



wherein

- R₁=H, Boc or Fmoc;
- R₂ = OMe, H, OEt or OBenzyl;
- chirality at positions 2 and 4 results in four diastereomers (2S,4R), (2R,4S), (2S,4S) and (2R,4R); and
- T is a nucleobase.

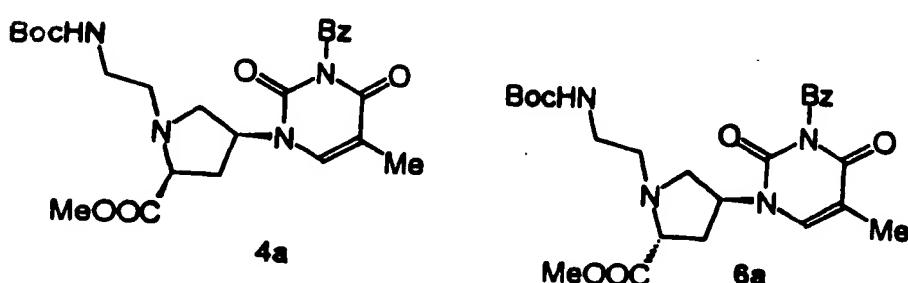
20. (Previously presented) The monomer precursor-synthon as claimed in claim 19 wherein T is a naturally occurring nucleobase.

21-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 14, along with any other pharmaceutically effective agent.

25. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 15, along with any other pharmaceutically effective agent.

26. (Previously presented) A process for preparing compounds of formulae 4a and 6a



comprising the steps of

- A. a) synthesizing (N-Boc)-2-aminoethanol from 2-aminoethanol;
b) synthesizing (N-Boc)-2-aminoethylbromide from (N-Boc)-2-aminoethanol;
- B. N-alkylation of 4-hydroxyprolinemethylester with (N-Boc)-2-aminoethanol prepared as in step A;
 - (i) alkylation of 4*R*-hydroxy-2*S*-prolinemethylester with (N-Boc)-2-aminoethylbromide to obtain 1-(N-Boc-aminoethyl)-4*R*-hydroxy-2*S*-prolinemethyl ester;
 - (ii) alkylation of 4*R*-hydroxy-2*R*-prolinemethylester with (N-Boc)-2-aminoethyl bromide to obtain 1-(N-Boc-aminoethyl)-4*R*-hydroxy-2*R*-prolinemethyl ester;
 - (iii) alkylation of 4*S*-hydroxy-2*R*-prolinemethylester with (N-Boc)-2-aminoethyl bromide to obtain 1-(N-Boc-aminoethyl)-4*S*-hydroxy-2*R*-prolinemethyl ester;
 - (iv) alkylation of 4*S*-hydroxy-2*S*-prolinemethylester with (N-Boc)-2-aminoethyl bromide to obtain 1-(N-Boc-aminoethyl)-4*S*-hydroxy-2*S*-prolinemethyl ester;

C. Mitsunobu reaction of compounds 1-(N-Boc-aminoethyl)-4*R*-hydroxy-2*S*-prolinemethyl ester and (N-Boc)-2-aminoethanol prepared according to steps B(i) and B(ii) with N3-benzoylthymine, to produce monomer synthons of formulae 4a and 6a, respectively.